In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A product storing and dispensing system, comprising

a. a cabinet having a plurality of product compartments,

b. a temperature controller for regulating temperature in said cabinet,

c. a proximity sensor for each product compartment for sensing the presence of a product while the product remains in said product compartment,

d. a processor, connected to each sensor, for accepting sensor signals,

e. a separate aging indicator ~~associated with~~ proximate each product compartment and being connected to said processor, each aging indicator having at least three product condition signals, and

f. means in said processor for selectively activating the product condition signals of each aging indicator.

2. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 1, in which said sensor comprises an optical detector.

3. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 1, in which said sensor comprises an infrared detector.

4. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 1, in which said aging indicator comprises at least three displays, each display having a different one of said three product condition signals.

5. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 4, in which said three displays comprise visual indicators.

6. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 4, in which said three displays comprise a first display indicating a product is not ready for dispensing, a second display indicating that a product is ready for dispensing and a third display indicating that a product should be selected first for dispensing.

7. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 1, including a heat source for said cabinet.

8. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 7, in which said heat source comprises a heater controlled by said processor.

9. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 1, in which said cabinet includes multiple columns of said product compartments.

10. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 1, in which said temperature controller comprises the thermocouple.

11. (Currently Amended) A product storing and dispensing system, comprising

a. a heated cabinet having a plurality of product compartments,

b. a temperature controller for regulating temperature in said cabinet,

c. a proximity sensor for each product compartment for sensing the presence of a product while the product remains in said product compartment,

d. a processor, connected to each sensor, for accepting sensor signals,

e. a separate aging indicator ~~associated with~~ proximate each product compartment and being connected to said processor, each aging indicator having three displays, each display comprising a product condition signal, and

f. means in said processor for selectively activating said displays.

12. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 11, in which said sensor comprises an optical detector.

13. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 11, in which said sensor comprises an infrared detector.

14. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 11, in which said three displays comprise visual indicators.

15. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 11, in which said three displays comprise a first display indicating a product is not ready for dispensing, a second display indicating that a product is ready for dispensing and a third display indicating that a product should be selected first for dispensing.

16. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 11, including a heat source for said cabinet.

17. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 16, in which said heat source comprises a heater controlled by said processor.

18. (Previously Presented) The product storing and dispensing system according to claim 11, in which said cabinet includes multiple columns of said product compartments.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of storing and dispensing products, comprising the steps of:

a. providing a cabinet having a plurality of product compartments,

b. regulating temperature in said cabinet,

c. sensing, in each product compartment, the presence of a product while the product remains in the product compartment,

d. separately, for each product compartment and proximate the product compartment, aging of product in the compartment by indicating one of at least three product condition signals, and

e. selectively activating the product condition signals over a period of time.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19 including the step of repeating steps c-e for each product compartment after a product is removed and another product is inserted in the product compartment.